**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 – 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method of assembling a conveyor of the type comprising an assemblage of a plurality of modular belt elements as an endless belt, wherein each element attaches to a plurality of the elements along a locus mating each one of at least two attachment points of a first belt element to a corresponding one of the at least two attachment points of a second belt element, wherein each of the at least two attachment points has a contiguous indexing recess that is a penetrating boltway or depression, the method comprising:

mating each of the at least two attachment points of a first belt element in contact with a corresponding one of the respective at least two attachment points of a second belt element;

slideably applying a clamping means for clamping together the mated attachment points of respective elements, thereby attaching the assemblage of elements along the locus; and

latching the clamping means at the indexing recesses of respective mated attachment points.

16. (original) The method of Claim 15, wherein said step of slideably clamping together the mated attachment points further comprises:

providing a clip having a latchkey at a predetermined location;

providing a pair of cooperative guiding structures functionally distributed between said clip and at least said first belt element, suitably arranged to guide the clip with respect to the first belt element to bring said latchkey to one of said mated attachment points of the first belt element while slideably clamping together the mated attachment points.

17. (original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the indexing recesses on respective mated attachment points are located across from each other to fixedly establish relative positions of the belt elements one to another.

18 -- 22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) In combination with a conveyor of the type comprising an assemblage of a plurality of modular belt elements as an endless belt, wherein each belt element is attached to a plurality of belt elements along a locus mating one of at least two attachment points of a first belt element to a corresponding one of at least two attachment points of a second belt element, wherein each of the at least two attachment points of respective elements has a contiguous

indexing recess that is a penetrating boltway or depression, the improvement comprising:

a slideable resilient clamping means fixedly attaching the belt elements together;

and wherein at least said one attachment point of said first belt element carries a first alignment guide in proximity to said contiguous indexing recess; and

said clamping means comprises a clamping surface, a latchkey, and a second alignment guide arranged with respect to said latchkey and clamping surface to be mateable with said first alignment guide for guiding movement of the latchkey to the contiguous indexing recess and guiding movement of the clamping surface to said one attachment point;

whereby the latchkey is directed into registration with the contiguous indexing recess and locks the clamping surface against the attachment point.

24 – 26. (canceled)

27. (original) The combination of Claim 23, wherein the clamping means comprises a spring-type clamp, and is of a material composition that is polymeric or metallic.

28. (original) The clamp of Claim 27, wherein the clamp is of a profile in transverse section that is approximately rectangle shaped, round shaped, oval shaped, or polygonal shaped adjacent a clamp opening.

29. (original) The combination of Claim 23, wherein the indexing recesses of mated attachment points are located across from each other to fixedly establish relative positions of the belt elements one to another.

30. (new) In combination with a conveyor of the type comprising an assemblage of a plurality of modular belt elements as an endless belt, wherein each belt element is attached to a plurality of belt elements along a locus mating two of at least four attachment points of a first belt element to a corresponding two of at least four attachment points of a second belt element, wherein said at least four attachment points are arranged with at least two in central positions and at least two in peripheral positions, and each of the at least four attachment points of respective elements has a contiguous indexing recess that is a penetrating boltway or depression, the improvement comprising:

slideable resilient clamping means fixedly attaching the belt elements together at said peripheral attachment points; and

bolts attaching the belt elements together at said central attachment points.